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RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF USSR AGRICULTURE
IN POSTWAR FIVE-YEAR PLAN

S. Demidov

The production of market grain in the USSR increased from 21.6 million tons in 1913 to 38.3 million tons in 1940; the production of cotton during the same period increased from 740,000 tons to 2.7 million tons.

The sown area of industrial crops in 1940 was nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than in 1913. A clear indication of the increase in agricultural production is the growth of the area sown with feed crops, which in 1940 was several times larger than in 1913.

The output of grain crops in 1950 will increase to 127 million tons as compared to 119 million tons in 1940, and the average harvest of grain crops per hectare will increase to 12 centners as compared to 10.7 centners in 1940.

The output of raw cotton in 1950 will increase to 3.1 million tons as compared to 2.7 million tons in 1940. The cultivation of flax for fiber will be one of the basic branches of agriculture in the northern, northwestern, western, and central chernozem zones of European USSR. High-quality flax fiber is also produced in the Ural region and in western and eastern Siberia. Growth of the mechanization of field work, increasing use of mineral fertilizer in flax-raising areas, and improved selection and seed raising make it possible to increase the production of flax fiber in 1950 to 0.8 million tons as compared to 0.6 million tons produced in 1940.

The sugar-beet harvest in 1950 will reach 26 million tons as compared to 21 million tons in 1940.

The harvest of sunflower seeds in 1950 will be increased to 3.7 million tons as compared to 3.3 million tons in 1940.

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- 1 -

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According to the postwar Five-Year Plan, the acreage for vegetable and melon crops and potatoes in 1950 will be 12.6 million hectares as compared to 10.0 million hectares in 1950. The acreage for potatoes will increase considerably in the republics of Central Asia, the southern oblasts of Kazakhstan, the Transcaucasus, the southern steppe regions of the Ukraine and Crimea, so that it will no longer be necessary to ship potatoes to these regions from the distant regions of the European USSR and Siberia.

By the end of 1950, the planned area for citrus plants in the Georgian SSR is to be 29,100 hectares. To meet these figures, an area of 11,000 hectares must be planted during the 1946-50 period. Of this total, 3,000 hectares will be used for lemon trees and 3,000 hectares for orange trees.

The average yearly rate of increase of cattle in kolkhozes during 1935-40 was: cattle 11.7 percent, sheep and goats 23.2, pigs 15.2, and horses 6.0 percent.

To compensate for the considerable livestock losses suffered during the war, the postwar Five-Year Plan provides for increasing the number of horses by 46 percent, cattle 39, sheep and goats by 75, and pigs 3 times as compared to 1945.

The following figures indicate the rate of acreage increase planned for perennial grasses kolkhozes (in 1,000 hectares):

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1950 in % of 1940</u>
USSR	7,194	15,300	213
Including:			
Nonchernozem belt	2,109	3,600	171
Central chernozem zone	177	1,350	763
Land along Volga	544	1,350	248
Urals	583	1,200	206
Western Siberia	412	1,000	243
Ukrainian SSR	1,129	2,500	221
Uzbek SSR	240	420	175

The acreage devoted to perennial grasses in grain and livestock-raising sovkhozes in 1940 was 1,325,000 hectares. The acreage in 1950 is to be increased to 3,100,000 hectares, distributed as follows:

- 2 -

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50X1-HUM

	1940		1950	
	<u>1,000 ha</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1,000 ha</u>	<u>%</u>
Plowland under cultivation	10,935	100.0	12,000	100.0
Clean fallow	2,000	18.4	2,100	17.5
Total sown area	8,926	81.6	9,900	82.5
Including:				
Grain crops	6,286	57.5	6,105	50.8
Perennial grasses	1,325	12.1	3,100	25.8

The entire area to be sown with spring crops, excluding areas in the Volga region, northeast Kazakhstan, and Siberia, must be guaranteed good fall plowing. This requires annual fall plowing of an area of about 75 million hectares. From 40-50 percent of this area will undergo preliminary stubble plowing by the end of the Five-Year Plan.

By the end of the postwar Five-Year Plan, plowing must be 90 percent mechanized, sowing of spring and winter crops not less than 70 percent mechanized, fallow plowing 90 percent mechanized, and fall plowing of fields 90 percent mechanized. Combines must harvest 55 percent of the total grain-harvesting area.

The number of tractor- and horse-drawn disk stubble plows will be greatly increased during the postwar Five-Year Plan. In 1940, MTS and sovkhozes had 2,800 stubble plows. By 1950, they are expected to have 176,000.

It is important to improve and perfect the combines now being constructed. Existing models of combines have many constructional defects. Combines made before the war were of two basic types and were able to harvest 14-15 centners of grain per hectare. However, in a number of rayons in the Ukraine, Northern Caucasus, and the central chernozem zones the average yield of grains, especially of winter crops, was 18-20 or more centners per hectare. New types of combines capable of harvesting the greater grain yields must be widely utilized.

A great deal of labor is wasted in livestock-raising kolkhozes. According to agricultural records kept by kolkhozes, 10-30 percent of working days are used for livestock raising. In kolkhozes in Moscow Oblast, livestock-raising farms utilize on a full-time basis 30-40 percent of all working members of the kolkhoz. A similar situation exists in other livestock-raising rayons.

Mechanization not only reduces labor expenditure in livestock raising, but also raises the productivity of livestock. According to data from scientific-research institutes, the use of automatic milking machines has increased the milk yield by 15-18 percent.

The mechanization of feed procurement prior to storage increases the effective usage of feed by 10-15 percent. Mechanization of water supply and feed procurement reduces manpower requirements by 20-30 percent. Mechanization of labor on hog-raising farms reduces demands on manpower 55 percent.

Electrification of agriculture can be expanded considerably. In 1945 alone, villages utilized an additional 69,700 kilowatt-hours; 682 MTS and numerous Machine-Tractor Repair Shops (MTM) were electrified; 2,422 kolkhozes obtained some electric power; 938 new points were equipped with electric

- 3 -

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50X1-HUM

threshing machines; and about 600 small agricultural hydroelectric power plants and 900 heat and power plants using local fuel were put into operation.

The basic tasks in improving repair facilities are: (1) to set up in each MTS a repair shop for tractors and agricultural machines; (2) to organize a wide network of MTM so that every 15-20 MTS may be served by one MTM; (3) to construct well-equipped MTM in all agricultural zones.

- E N D -

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- 4 -

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